

Obituary  
of  
JESSE H. TROMANHAUSER

Died at the age of \_\_\_\_\_ at the home of his brother John, Yakima, Washington. Born Feb. 2nd, 1856 at Hustonville, Ontario, Canada. His mother was Jane Jones, daughter of Jesse Jones of Toronto and his father was Michael Tromanhauser, born in Mainz, Germany, graduate of Heidleburg University, an educated and skillful engineer, architect and builder who came to America with his father's battle-axe--a treasured souvenir of the Crimean War; his big Bible printed in German and a wallet of German marks to pay his way. His father's parting words were, "Here, Michael, take these and go to America where you may be a good citizen in a land of freedom and hope."

Upon arrival at New York, Michael walked from the wharf where his ship docked to Buffalo, New York where he obtained work on the docks and bridge. While at work in Buffalo he received an offer for work in Toronto, Ontario. He crossed from Buffalo to Niagara on the Canadian side in an Indian canoe manned by an Indian guide. Skirting the Coasts of Lakes Ontario and Erie, they landed at Toronto at the foot of Young St., paid off his Indian guide in German marks and went about his business of finding the firm of Jesse Ketchum & Co. Eventually Michael married the niece of Jesse Ketchum and the two were blest with eight sons and three daughters, Jesse being their third child. It is interesting to note that in passing Welland & St. Catherines, as he floated down the Niagara River in that Indian's canoe, little did it ever enter the thought or mind of Michael that some day in the future his son Jesse should build the Welland Canal which now provides an easy waterway from the Great Lakes, down the St. Lawrence to the Atlantic Ocean.

The Tromanhauser family in America were all born in Ontario. Michael, the father of the clan, made engineering contracts in both Canada and in the United States. Among his first jobs in the U.S.A. was one at the Washburn Flour Mills at Minneapolis, Minn. Michael's death prevented the accomplishment of his highest ambition--to move his family to Minneapolis. But this was accomplished by his son Jesse who moved the whole family to Minneapolis, Minn. in Sept. 1886.

Jesse's early engineering training was obtained while employed by the Goldie and McCullough Co. of Galt, Ont., builders, architects and engineers.

Upon arriving in Minneapolis in 1885, Jesse's first assignment was the installing of machinery in the great flour mills of both the Washburn Crosby and Pillsbury Mills where his father had held a directive position before him.

After over three years Jesse then became head draftsman and instructor in architectural and engineering draftsmanship in the firm of Barnett and Record Co., grain elevator builders and contractors. After three years experience with this company, Jesse decided to form a company of his own, taking in three brothers, Edwin, Haver and John, under the firm name of Tromanhauser Brothers', Inc., grain elevator builders, saw mills, docks, heavy foundations, dams and waterways, bulkheads, etc. They were successful from the start.

The grain producing states of the West, Northwest and South as far as Memphis, Tenn., St. Louis, Mo., and New Orleans, La., and also in the Northern states, the Dakotas, Minnesota, Iowa, etc. all have standing memorials of these pioneer conservationists. Jesse, Edwin and Haver all registered many useful Patents in the U. S. Patent Office. Jesse's deep water floating pontoon patents were used in the building of the Welland Canal and are still available for all deep water construction. Among other patents Jesse registered patents for the control of gravity and the use of friction. The Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco, Calif., was built from plans and patents owned by Jesse and leased to the Engineers of that Great Bridge.

In Jesse Tromanhauser's files are stored many factual evidences, not only as to his skillful ability as an Engineer but also of a long and useful life of cheerful benevolence and social welfare amounting to the modest sum of \$118,000.00 bestowed on many families and individuals and institutions, benefit and orphaned, helpless and forlorn human beings.

Jesse was an intelligent planner, skillful worker and wise investor. His gold and silver mines in the Kirkland Lake District of Canada, while not being heavy producers, have produced precious ores of gold and silver. These mines now, it is understood, are in the ownership of the Canadian Government.

The life work of Jesse H. Tromanhauser includes the construction of valuable and lasting conservative projects for both his native land and adopted country.

His life was an exemplification of natural goodness, highest moral character and innate and wise justice, humanity, benevolence and good-will toward others. He was of that caliber of moral trust--worthiness that in all his contracts and projects involving large financial outlays he was never asked to give bond.

He is survived by three brothers and two sisters: Edwin H. of Minneapolis, Minn., John B. of Yakima, Washington, Stanley T. of Columbus, Ohio, Mrs. Olive Merritt Bruce of Los Angeles and Mrs. Edward A. Kummel, Miami, Florida.

Done by Annie Florence (Mrs. Kummel)  
for the Tromanhauser clan in America